

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 have been amended. Claims 10, 11 and 15 remain withdrawn, and claims 2, 3 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Proper support for the amendments to claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 and new claim 16 can be found in the specification at least at page 26, line 26 through page 28, line 5, FIGS. 1, 5-8 and 12.

Thus, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 and 16 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION:

In item 2 of the outstanding Office action, the Examiner objects to the Specification of the application at page 12, line 5 because of informalities.

The Specification at page 12, line 5 is herein amended to read, "a rightward frame fast feed button 30".

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 9:

In line 4 of claim 9, the Examiner objected to the "said computer" recitation of claim 9. Claim 9 is herein amended and no longer recites "said computer".

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,704). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sato discusses an image sensing apparatus and method for simultaneously displaying an object image and an image held in the apparatus. According to Sato, a display screen includes a main image display portion (at the center of the screen) for displaying a photographing preview and a plurality of subwindows surrounding the main image display portion for viewing thumbnail images (see, column 4, lines 32-40 and FIG. 2 of Sato). The viewing thumbnail images are sequentially displayed on the subwindows and indices may be used to switch the viewing thumbnail images to earlier or later images (see, column 4, lines 42-51 of Sato). The thumbnail images are displayed in the clockwise direction every time a new image is photographed (see, column 5, lines 10-16 and FIG. 4 of Sato), or may be always displayed at a predetermined window set as the initial position (see, column 6, lines 35-39 of

Sato).

In contrast, independent claims 1, 7 and 12 recite, "displaying a screen configured by a first display area displaying an image from an image acquisition device, and a second display area displaying a sequence of image data", "detecting a photographing instruction", and "generating image data from the image when detecting the photographing instruction" such that the image data is *inserted* in "a desirable position of said sequence of image data". This allows a user to insert newly generated image data into any desirable position within the sequence of images displayed in the second display area. Sato does not teach or suggest, "inserting the image data in a desirable position of said sequence of image data", as recited in each of the independent claims 1, 7 and 12.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the independent claims 1, 7 and 12 are patentable over Sato.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1, 7 and 12 are patentably distinguishable over Sato. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 4, "when the inserting unit inserts the image data in the desirable position of said sequence of image data, the image data already displayed are shifted frame by frame in a predetermined direction and thus displayed" (see also dependent claims 8 and 13). The Sato apparatus does not teach or suggest that "when the inserting unit inserts the image data in the desirable position of said sequence of image data", the image data already displayed are "shifted frame by frame in a predetermined direction and thus displayed", as recited in dependent claim 4.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

In item 17 of the outstanding Office Action, dependent claims 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Bullock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,050).

The Examiner acknowledges that Sato fails to disclose that the images are input from an outside device to the display, and thus relies on Bullock et al. as disclosing the same.

Bullock et al. discusses a computer connected by a tether to a digital image capture camera (see, column 3, lines 6-8 of Bullock et al.). The images taken by an instant camera are presented in the work-surface of the attached computer display for purposes of comparison,

ordering, discarding, and initial distribution (see, column 4, lines 48 of Bullock et al.). Then, if the user is unsatisfied with the quality of the image(s), the user may discard a selected image(s) from a plurality of image windows displayed (see, column 6, lines 3-6 of Bullock et al.). This means that Bullock et al. is limited to displaying sequentially captured images on a work-surface of the computer display.

The combination of Sato and Bullock et al. does not teach or suggest, "inserting the image data in a desirable position of said sequence of image data" (independent claims 1 and 7 from which claims 5 and 9 depend, respectfully), where "the image acquisition device is an outside device" (dependent claims 5 and 9).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 16 has been added to recite, "providing a first display area displaying an image from the image acquisition device and providing a second display area displaying a sequence of stored image data" and "acquiring the image from the image acquisition device and generating image data related to the acquired image", where "the generated image data is automatically stored at a selected position of the displayed sequence of stored image data in accordance with a user's instruction when the image is acquired."

This allows the present invention to enable a user to insert a newly generated image data at a desirable position when an image is acquired and does not require the user to rearrange a location of the image data subsequent to acquiring the image data.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that new claim 16 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

Accordingly, the specification and claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 have been amended. Claims 10, 11 and 15 remain withdrawn, and claims 2, 3 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice. New claim 16 has been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12-14 and 16 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

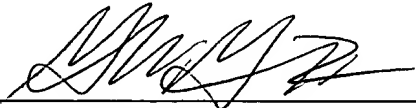
requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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